

# Brecht on Performance: Messingkauf Dialogues and Modelbooks

Bertolt Brecht's Messingkauf Dialogues and Modelbooks are essential reading for anyone interested in the theory and practice of performance. Written between 1930 and 1956, these texts offer a unique insight into Brecht's revolutionary approach to theatre.

In the Messingkauf Dialogues, Brecht develops his theory of "epic theatre." Epic theatre, Brecht argued, should be a form of political theatre that uses alienation effects to distance the audience from the action on stage. This distancing effect, Brecht believed, would allow the audience to critically examine the social and political issues explored in the play.

The Modelbooks, on the other hand, are a collection of practical exercises and techniques that Brecht developed for actors and directors. These exercises are designed to help performers develop the skills necessary to create effective epic theatre productions.



## Brecht on Performance: Messingkauf and Modelbooks

(Performance Books) by Bertolt Brecht

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 9164 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 312 pages



Together, the Messingkauf Dialogues and Modelbooks provide a comprehensive overview of Brecht's theory and practice of performance. They are essential reading for anyone interested in understanding Brecht's work and its impact on the development of modern theatre.

Brecht's theory of epic theatre is based on the idea that theatre should be a form of political education. He believed that theatre should not merely entertain the audience, but should also challenge their assumptions and provoke them to think critically about the world around them.

To achieve this, Brecht argued that theatre must use alienation effects to distance the audience from the action on stage. These alienation effects can take a variety of forms, such as:

- **Breaking the fourth wall:** Having actors address the audience directly
- **Using 夸张:** Exaggerating the characters' actions and speech
- **Using projections:** Projecting images and text onto the stage
- **Using music:** Using music to create a sense of irony or detachment

By using alienation effects, Brecht sought to create a theatre that was both entertaining and thought-provoking. He believed that this type of theatre would help the audience to develop a critical understanding of the social and political issues of their time.

The Modelbooks are a collection of practical exercises and techniques that Brecht developed for actors and directors. These exercises are designed to

help performers develop the skills necessary to create effective epic theatre productions.

The Modelbooks cover a wide range of topics, including:

- **Acting:** Exercises for developing the actor's physical and vocal skills
- **Directing:** Exercises for developing the director's skills in staging and blocking
- **Design:** Exercises for developing the designer's skills in creating sets, costumes, and lighting

The Modelbooks are an invaluable resource for anyone interested in learning more about Brecht's theory and practice of performance. They are also a valuable tool for actors and directors who are looking to create effective epic theatre productions.

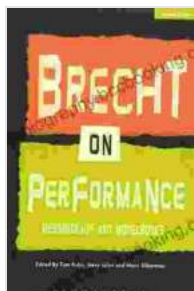
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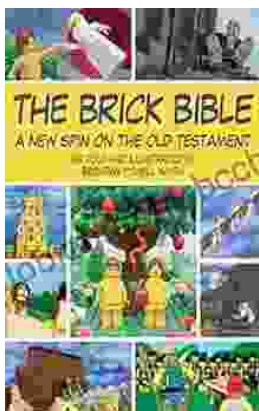


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